

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06
NEA-10 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /118 W
-----170631Z 031056 /11

R 170018Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3204
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1816

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB,ILO, CA
SUBJECT: ILO 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

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REF: STATE 102699

1. SUMMARY: AS INSTRUCTED PER REFTEL, AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED
BY LABATT, CALLED ON GNZ FOREIGN SECRETARY CORNER AND MINISTER
OF LABOR GORDON MAY 12. IN RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE PRESENTED BY
AMBASSADOR, BOTH OFFICIALS INDICATED A GENERAL SYMPATHY FOR
USG POSITIONS CONCERNING REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR

ORGANIZATION (ILO) AND CONFERENCE ISSUES. CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF 63RD ILC IN ASSESSING FUTURE USG MEMBERSHIP IN ILO STRESSED AS WAS APPRECIATION FOR PAST COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND ILO DELEGATIONS. GORDON, WHO WILL HEAD NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION FOR SIX DAYS AT ILC, EXPRESSED (A) "PRIVATE CONCERN" FOR RECENT "POLITICIZING" OF ILO, (B) WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH U.S. DELEGATION ON CRITICAL ISSUES AT CONFERENCE AND (C) AN INTEREST IN U.S. DELEGATION AT CONFERENCE MAKING "DIRECT APPROACH" TO EITHER HIM OR DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION (REX ROE) REGARDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, CHAIRMANSIPS, CRITICAL ISSUES. AIDE MEMOIRE OUTLINING USG POSTURE LEFT WITH BOTH OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY LABATT, MADE SEPARATE CALLS MAY 12 ON MINISTER OF LABOR GORDON AND FOREIGN SECRETARY CORNER (FORNMIN UNAVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 17) TO EXPLAIN CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF 63RD ILC TO U.S. DECISION ON FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN ILO. AT BOTH CALLS, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATIVE ROLE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATIONS HAVE PLAYED IN

PAST AND MADE STRONG PITCH FOR CONTINUED ACTIVE, COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION AT JUNE MEETING. AIDE MEMOIRE OF POINTS EMPHASIZED AND USG POSITIONS ON CONFERENCE'S CRITICAL ISSUES WAS LEFT WITH BOTH.

3. MINISTER GORDON, NOTING HE WOULD BE LEADING NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION FOR FIRST SIX DAYS OF CONFERENCE, EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF JUNE MEETING TO U.S. ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE ILO PARTICIPATION AND OFFERED HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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"PRIVATE CONCERN" FOR THE "POLITICIZING" OF RECENT ILO SESSIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION WENT TO CONFERENCE PREPARED TO SHARE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING THAT OF CHAIRMANSIPS, AS MIGHT BE INDICATED. NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION WILL BE WILLING TO WORK WITH U.S. DELEGATION ON CRITICAL ISSUES, HE SAID, AND WHILE NEW ZEALAND MIGHT NOT BE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT IN EVERY CASE, HE AND HIS DELEGATION WILL NOT SHIRK ANY RESPONSIBILITY. GORDON URGED THAT U.S. DELEGATION MAKE "DIRECT APPROACH" TO EITHER HIM OR THE DEPUTY HEAD OF NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION (DEPUTY SECRETARY OF LABOR F.D.R. "REX" ROE) ON ANY MATTERS (E.G. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, CHAIRMANSIPS, CRITICAL ISSUES) WHERE NEW ZEALAND MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

4. FORNSEC CORNER (WHOM AMBASSADOR MET FOLLOWING GORDON) EXPRESSED A SIMILAR, ALTHOUGH LESS EXPANSIVE, DESIRE TO COOPERATE. CORNER NOTED THAT NEW ZEALAND HAS NOT ALWAYS AGREED WITH U.S. DELEGATION AT ILO AND THAT "TRADITIONALISTS"

ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT ADJUSTING TO MORE HEAVILY POLITICAL
ATMOSPHERE OF RECENT ILO CONFERENCES. HE SAID HE COULD ASSURE
THAT GNZ FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES AT GENEVA WOULD BE
SLLY BRIEFED ON U.S. POSITIONS AND WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS
POSSIBLE.

5. NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION WILL BE:

GOVERNMENT:

LABOR MINISTER, JOHN B. "PETER" GORDON
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF LJ OR, F.D.R. "REX" ROE
DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, S.D. WILLIAMS
GNZ PERMREP GENEVA, AMBASSADOR E. "TED" FARNUM
COUNSELLOR, GNZ MISSION GENEVA, C.J.M. ROSS

LABOR DELEGATE:

SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF LABOUR, JIM KNOX
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EMPLOYEE DELEGATE:

PRESIDENT, NEW ZEALAND EMPLOYER'S FEDERATION, D.G. SUTCLIFFE.

6. COMMENT: SEVERAL OF NEW ZEALAND'S DELEGATION ARE "OLD HANDS"
AT ILO CONFERENCES AND SHOUL BE WELL-KNOWN TO U.S. DELEGATES.
WHILE GNZ SEES CONTINUED VALUE IN ILO -- EVEN AS AN ORGANIZATION
MORE POLITICAL THAN TECHNICAL -- A ECHNICAL ORGANIZATION IS ITS
CLEAR PREFERENCE, AS IS CONTINUED, FULL, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
BY THE U.S. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES MAXIMUM COOPERATION FROM
NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION ON ALL CRITICAL ISSUES AND FULL
SHARING OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES.
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